

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 10-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 8 and 9 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7 and 10 are amended. No new matter is added.

The pending claims are allowable over U.S. Patent 5,913,912 to Nishimura et al. (Nishimura) previously applied in this application. Nishimura relates to a flight strips management method and system for rationalizing movement of aircraft at an airport (col. 1, lines 7-9). An object of Nishimura is to provide systems and methods whereby an operator can easily ascertain the condition of all aircraft in an airport and aircraft management functions can be performed in an optimal way (col. 1, lines 57-60).

Applicants submit that the flight strips management method and system disclosed in Nishimura does not correspond to the airport operational management system recited in the rejected claims nor does flight strips management correspond to airport operations management. As stated in the attached Affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.132, the concept of a "flight strip" has a very narrow definition within the aviation community (i.e., to one of ordinary skill in the art). For example, as stated in the attached Affidavit, "flight strips" are used as a tool to provide safety of life function by Air Traffic Control (ATC). Thus, "flight strips" do not correspond to airport operations which entails the overall management of airport operations (an operations management tool for collaborative decision support for airline personnel through shared tactical operational information (as described in the specification of this application)).

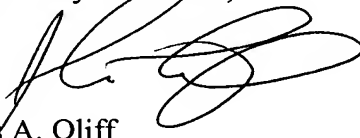
Further support of the meaning of "flight strips" and flight strips management to those of ordinary skill in the art may be found in *Is Paper Safer? The Role of Paper Flight Strips in Air Traffic Control*, Wendy E. Mackay, University of Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark, submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith.

Moreover, Nishimura is not directed to, nor does Nishimura disclose or suggest, an airport management system that is used for obtaining, storing and disseminating information to airport management personnel to increase the efficiency of airport management. Rather, Nishimura is focused on information consolidation and remains silent as to any information sharing or disseminating. Because Nishimura is directed to a flight strips management method, the system gathers information and provides the information to ATC to track and control the movement of aircraft. As indicated in the attached Affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.132, flight strips information is a device used by air traffic control that would not be shared with those outside of air traffic control for the general purpose of airport management. For example, Nishimura specifically describes problems known with traditional flight strips, i.e., cards that give movement information such as takeoff and landing time for each aircraft (col. 1, lines 22-24). Nishimura seeks to resolve the problem by employing an automated system whereby an operator can easily ascertain the condition of all the aircraft in the airport. Thus, Nishimura gathers information for use in flight strips management and not for disseminating or sharing to entities outside of ATC for airport management functions. As Nishimura does not disclose or suggest an airport management system as recited in the rejected claims, Nishimura does not anticipate or render obvious the subject matter recited in the rejected claims as amended.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 10-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John W. Fitzpatrick
Registration No. 41,018

JAO:JWF/ldg

Attachments:

Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132
Information Disclosure Statement

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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